

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 4 as follows. All of the claims currently pending in the application are included for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Previously Presented) An optical scanning apparatus comprising:
a light source;
deflecting means;
entrance optical means for guiding light emitted from the light source to the deflecting means; and
scanning optical means for forming an image of the light reflectively deflected by the deflecting means, on a surface to be scanned,
wherein said scanning optical means asymmetrically changes curvatures in a sagittal direction at respective positions in a meridional direction,
wherein the curvatures in the sagittal direction at respective positions in the meridional direction facing in one off-axis direction across an optical axis comprise a plurality of sagittal deformation surfaces of which magnitude relation is larger than that in curvatures in the sagittal direction at respective positions in the meridional direction facing in another off-axis direction across the optical axis, and
wherein the sagittal deformation surfaces comprise two or more surfaces in which the curvatures in the sagittal direction at the respective positions in the meridional direction increase or decrease on a same side.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An optical scanning apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the sagittal deformation surfaces at respective positions of the curvatures in the meridional direction on a light source side are larger than those at the respective positions of the curvatures in the meridional direction on an anti-light source side.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) An optical scanning apparatus comprising:
a light source;
deflecting means;
entrance optical means for guiding light emitted from the light source to the deflecting means; and
scanning optical means for forming an image of the light reflectively deflected by the deflecting means, on a surface to be scanned,
wherein the scanning optical means comprises a plurality of sagittal asymmetric change surfaces in which curvatures in the sagittal direction change on an asymmetric basis in the meridional direction with respect to the optical axis of the scanning optical means, and

wherein said scanning optical means comprises a plurality of $f\theta$ lenses, an $f\theta$ lens located closest to the deflecting means among said plurality of $f\theta$ lenses has a negative refractive power in the sagittal direction, and an $f\theta$ lens located closest to the surface to be scanned, among said plurality of $f\theta$ lenses, has a positive refractive power in the sagittal direction.

7. (Original) The optical scanning apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein all lens surfaces of said plurality of $f\theta$ lenses are formed in a concave shape opposed to said deflecting means.

8. (Previously Presented) The optical scanning apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the following condition is satisfied:

$$k/W \leq 0.6,$$

where k is an $f\theta$ coefficient of said scanning optical means, and W is an effective scanning width of said surface to be scanned.

9. (Previously Presented) The optical scanning apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the following condition is satisfied:

$$|\beta_s| \geq 2,$$

where β_s is a lateral magnification in the sub-scanning direction of said scanning optical means.

10-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) An image-forming apparatus comprising:
the scanning optical apparatus as set forth in any one of Claims 1 and 6;
a photosensitive body located at the surface to be scanned;
a developing unit for developing an electrostatic, latent image formed on said photosensitive body with the light under scan by said scanning optical apparatus, into a toner image;
a transfer unit for transferring the developed toner image onto a transfer medium ; and
a fixing unit for fixing the transferred toner image on the transfer medium.

20. (Previously Presented) An image-forming apparatus comprising the scanning optical apparatus as set forth in any one of Claims 1 and 6; and
a printer controller for converting code data supplied from an external device, into an image signal and supplying the image signal to said scanning optical apparatus.

21-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) An optical scanning apparatus according to claim 1, wherein two or more of the sagittal deformation surfaces asymmetrically change curvature in the sagittal direction at respective positions in the meridional direction so as to keep a sub-scanning magnification constant.